Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. The amendments find full support in the originally filed application.

Listing of Claims

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for planning and scheduling tasks within at least one request for change (RFC) within a change window in a computing system comprising the steps of:

deciding whether or not an RFC should be done, wherein the RFC comprises a set of tasks interrelated by temporal and location-specific dependencies;

for each RFC to be done, assigning individual tasks within each RFC to acceptable servers;

for each RFC to be done, assigning a start time to said individual tasks;

~~wherein the RFC describes at least one job to be done on at least one target computing system;~~

wherein the ~~at least one job is selected from a group consisting of~~ set of tasks comprises hardware changes and/or software changes; ~~and~~

wherein the change window describes a period of time during which the RFC is to be done; and

wherein precedence constraints among tasks within the RFC are enforced.

2. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of reserving all the servers involved for a duration that begins at the start of a first task and ends at the finish of a last task for each RFC that should be done.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of maximizing a value of all RFCs done;

wherein the value is a profit value derived from performing a ~~plurality of jobs associated with a selected~~ subset of the RFCs; and

wherein the profit value for each RFC is expressed as a value of performing the ~~jobs~~ set of tasks minus a value of associated costs.

4. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of maximizing the number of RFCs done.

5. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of minimizing total downtime.

6. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of minimizing at least one cost associated with downtime.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of minimizing a total execution time in implementing a task.

8. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of maximizing

the number of RFCs meeting their deadlines

9. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of minimizing multiple deadline penalties associated with ~~the~~ RFCs and/or their respective tasks

10. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of minimizing an average response time of each ~~RFCs~~ RFC.

11. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of minimizing a weighted average response time of each ~~RFCs~~ RFC.

12. **(Currently Amended)** A system for planning and scheduling tasks within at least one request for change (RFC) within a change window in a computing system, comprising:

an arrangement for deciding whether or not an RFC should be done, wherein the RFC comprises a set of tasks interrelated by temporal and location-specific dependencies;

an arrangement for assigning individual tasks to acceptable servers for each RFC to be done; and

an arrangement for assigning a start time to said individual tasks for each RFC to be done;

~~wherein the RFC describes at least one job to be done on at least one target computing system;~~

wherein the ~~at least one job is selected from a group consisting of~~ <u>set of tasks</u> <u>comprises</u> hardware changes and~~/or~~<u>/or</u> software changes; ~~and~~

wherein the change window describes a period of time during which the RFC is to be done<u>; and</u>

<u>wherein precedence constraints among tasks within the RFC are enforced</u>.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 12, further comprising an arrangement for reserving all the servers involved for a duration that begins at the start of the first task and ends at the finish of the last task for each RFC that should be done.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 12, further comprising an arrangement for maximizing a value of all RFCs done;

wherein the value is a profit value derived from performing a ~~plurality of jobs~~ ~~associated with a selected~~ subset of the RFCs; and

wherein the profit value for each RFC is expressed as a value of performing the ~~jobs~~ <u>set of tasks</u> minus a value of associated costs.

15. **(Original)** The system of Claim 12, further comprising an arrangement for maximizing the number of RFCs done.

16. **(Original)** The system of Claim 12, further comprising an arrangement for minimizing total downtime.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 12, further comprising an

arrangement for minimizing at least one cost associated with downtime.

18. (**Previously Presented**) The system of Claim 12, further comprising an arrangement for minimizing a total execution time in implementing a task.

19. (**Original**) The system of Claim 12, further comprising an arrangement for maximizing the number of RFCs meeting their deadlines

20. (**Currently Amended**) The system of Claim 12, further comprising an arrangement for minimizing multiple deadline penalties associated with ~~the~~ RFCs and/or their respective tasks.

21. (**Currently Amended**) The system of Claim 12, further comprising an arrangement for minimizing an average response time of each ~~RFCs~~ RFC.

22. (**Currently Amended**) The system of Claim 12, further comprising an arrangement for minimizing a weighted average response time of each ~~RFCs~~ RFC.

23. (**Currently Amended**) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for planning and scheduling tasks within at least one request for change (RFC) within a change window in a computing system, the method comprising the steps of:

deciding whether or not an RFC should be done, wherein the RFC comprises a set of tasks interrelated by temporal and location-specific dependencies;

for each RFC to be done, assigning individual tasks within each RFC to

acceptable servers;

for each RFC to be done, assigning a start time to said individual tasks;

~~wherein the RFC describes at least one job to be done on at least one target computing system;~~

wherein the ~~at least one job is selected from a group consisting of~~ <u>set of tasks</u> <u>comprises</u> hardware changes and<u>/or</u> software changes; ~~and~~

wherein the change window describes a period of time during which the RFC is to be done<u>; and</u>

<u>wherein precedence constraints among tasks within the RFC are enforced</u>.